

ATO Completes Repair To House; Expects CLC Housing License Today

By Pearle Lipinski
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity may regain the housing license to its house on Memorial Drive, depending on the results of tonight's Cambridge License Commission meeting.

ATO received a Certificate of Occupancy from the Cambridge Licensing Commission several weeks ago, which allows three brothers to live in the house, according to president DeRon M. Brown '10.

The housing license would allow all the members to move back into house. ATO expected to receive the housing license in March, but the process was delayed by unanticipated repairs to bring the house up to code. The fraternity remains splintered, its members staying in various dorms and apartments.

ATO's house was initially damaged when a pipe burst over the summer. But the house is so old that after one problem is fixed, another often crops up, Brown said. "We kept having to redo a lot of things to bring

[the house] up to code, because ATO is now at the very top level of code it can be," Brown said. "It is an old building, there were a lot of repairs, and the initial time estimates were inaccurate."

All renovations for the house are now complete, and Brown expects that ATO will receive the housing license at tonight's hearing. "We have met everything the CLC had asked us to do at the last meeting, made the necessary changes, upgraded to the correct code ... we don't see why we wouldn't get the license," he said.

Brown, ATO House Manager Justin D. Myers '11, and ATO Resident Adviser Ovid C. Amadi G were permitted to move back into the house when ATO received the Certificate of Occupancy, which allows three residents to live in the house. Brown said that the three protect the house and use it to hold meetings.

Twenty-five ATO brothers are cur-

ATO, Page 10

Crush, Push, Stack! 2.007 Robots Compete in Junkyard Challenges

By Sandhya Rawal
STAFF REPORTER

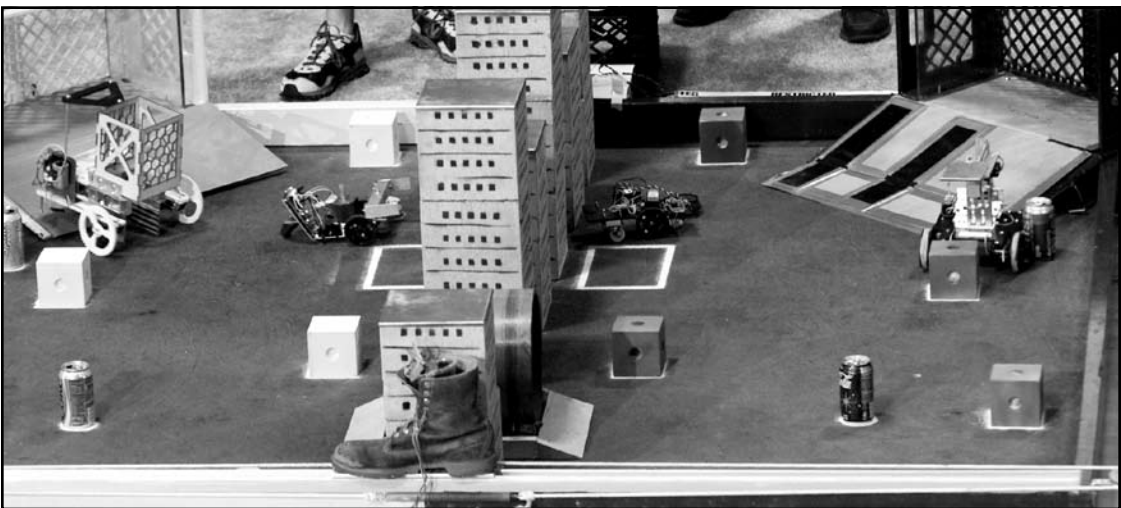
Edward M. Grinnell '11 won the 2009 2.007 design competition last Thursday with a robot that stacked bales of "trash." Pablo J. Bello '11 was the runner up, losing in the final round by two points. Grinnell and the three other top finishers won a trip to Tokyo for the International Design Contest, to be held in August. All top four finishers re-

ceived cash prizes and full licenses to SolidWorks. Grinnell received the extra prize of being carried by 2.007 professor Daniel D. Frey PhD '97 for a victory lap.

The theme of the competition was "WALL-E," the robot from the popular Disney/Pixar film. Robots were supposed to be environmentally friendly and perform the same junkyard tasks that WALL-E performed in the movie. The robots

could score points by collecting cans and crushing them, bringing crushed or pre-crushed cans back home, or bringing bales of trash (blocks) to their designated location. Robots only had to be designed to accomplish one of the three main tasks to score points. They could also tussle over a plant to bring it closer to their side of the

2.007, Page 12



STEVE HOWLAND—THE TECH

Four robots sprawl out onto the field during the 2.007 (Design and Manufacturing I) competition. Each contestant was allowed to have two drivers, so many created a secondary "bother bot" which would prevent their opponent from scoring. The winner of the competition, Edward M. Grinnell '11, used two robots. One robot immediately went to prevent the opponent from scoring, while the other scored a single point and then also crossed the field to defend.

New Student Financial Services Director to Be Announced, Barkowitz Leaving for Columbia

MIT will soon have a new director of Student Financial Services, according to Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings '78. Hastings will announce the new director "within the next few weeks," he said.

The previous director, Elizabeth M. Hicks, left for a similar position at Columbia University in the fall.

The new director will be responsible for finding a replacement for Daniel T. Barkowitz, the director of financial aid, who is leaving at the end of the month, also for Columbia. He will be the next Dean of Financial Aid at Columbia.

Barkowitz, who has been at MIT for seven years,

said the decision to leave "wasn't easy," but "it was time for another challenge."

"I leave the department here in a position of strength," said Barkowitz. "We've had a great staff."

Citing the success of his admissions blog, Barkowitz said he would like the department to do more electronically. He said that the department has been working on a new financial aid calculator that is expected to be launched in the next month.

Barkowitz said his three associate directors; Leslie C. Bridson, Elizabeth M. Gorra, and Susan A. Wilson; will fill his post until a replacement is found.

—Natasha Plotkin and Arkajit Dey



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH FILE PHOTO

Belfor Property Restoration trucks are seen in front of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity midday on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Summer residents of ATO had to be relocated after a water pipe burst, causing water damage to the interior structure of the building.

Urban Studies and Planning Students Walk In on Dept. Committee Meeting

By Natasha Plotkin
NEWS EDITOR

Last Wednesday, a group of over 10 students in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning walked in on a faculty committee meeting at the Black Sheep Restaurant in Kendall Square to demand a clearer mechanism for student input into future of the department and the handling of budget cuts.

The committee they walked in, called DUSP 2015, had been charged by DUSP's new department chair,

Amy K. Glasmeier, with creating an initial vision for the future of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Students presented meeting attendees with a document detailing their grievances and sat down at another table at the restaurant while the faculty conducted their meeting. At the end of the meeting, according to Naveen Jawaid G, one of the members of the group of students and who serves on the DUSP Student Council, said that Professor

Judith Layzer PhD '98, the chair of DUSP 2015, "committed to convene a meeting between the students and Amy [Glasmeier] in which a clear timeline for the future of student input would be a topic."

Jawaid said that while students had submitted input to the department in the form of memos and had discussed budget and department planning issues with Glasmeier and

DUSP, Page 12

In Short

¶ Energy Secretary and Nobel Laureate Stephen Chu will be giving the annual Karl Taylor Compton lecture today in 10-250 at 4 p.m. Chu's talk is titled "The Energy Problem and the Interplay Between Basic and Applied Research."

¶ Students from the 2.00b Toy Product Design class will be presenting their final projects tonight in 6-120 at 8 p.m. The toy prototypes include plush animals that can be hit like bongos, a vibrating kangaroo-shaped easel, and a flower that dances to music.

¶ Veteran astronaut Michael J. Massimino PhD '92 went up to space yesterday on a final shuttle mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope. STS-125 will repair old equipment and install two new cameras into the ageing telescope. Massimino has twittered about the preparations for this mission and promised to post updates in space as much as he is able. Follow his updates on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Astro_Mike.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



Comics

Page 8



Christine Yu:
Why I stopped
having sex with
other men.

Page 6

OPINION

Stop ignoring us, administration.

Page 5

Science is fine, but bring back
the liberal arts!

Page 5

World & Nation 2
Opinion..... 4
Campus Life..... 6
Arts..... 7
Comics/Fun Pages..... 8
Sports..... 16

WORLD & NATION

Russia Stockpiles Diamonds, Awaiting the Return of Demand

By Andrew E. Kramer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

The global recession sapped demand for all kinds of commodities — like steel and grain — yet small burlap bags are still arriving by the planeload at Russia’s state-owned diamond company.

Each day, the contents of the bags spill into the stainless steel hoppers of the receiving room. The diamonds are washed and sorted by size, clarity, shape and quality; then, rather than being sent to be sold around the world, they are wrapped in paper and whisked away to a vault — about 3 million carats worth of gems every month.

“Each one of them is so unusual,” said Irina V. Tkachuk, one of the few hundred people, mostly women, employed to sort the diamonds, who sees thousands of them every day.

“I’m not a robot. I sometimes think to myself, ‘Wow, what a pretty diamond. I would like that one.’ They are all so beautiful.”

It could be years before another woman admires that stone.

Russia quietly passed a milestone this year: surpassing De Beers as the world’s largest diamond producer. But the global market for diamonds is so dismal that the ALROSA diamond company, 90 percent owned by the Russian government, has not sold a rough stone on the open market since December, and has stockpiled them instead.

As a result, Russia has become the arbiter of global diamond prices. Its decisions on production and sales will determine the value of diamonds on rings and in jewelry stores for years to come, in one of the most surprising consequences of this recession.

Largely because of the jewelry bear market, De Beers’s fortunes have sunk. Short of cash, the company had to raise \$800 million from stockholders in just the last six months.

Vitamins Found to Curb Exercise Benefits

By Nicholas Wade

THE NEW YORK TIMES

If you exercise to improve your metabolism and prevent diabetes, you may want to avoid antioxidants like vitamins C and E.

That is the message of a surprising new look at the body’s reaction to exercise, reported on Monday by researchers in Germany and Boston.

Exercise is known to have many beneficial effects on health, including on the body’s sensitivity to insulin. “Get more exercise” is often among the first recommendations given by doctors to people at risk of diabetes.

But exercise makes the muscle cells metabolize glucose, by combining its carbon atoms with oxygen and extracting the energy that is released. In the process, some highly reactive oxygen molecules escape and make chemical attacks on anything in sight.

These reactive oxygen compounds are known to damage the body’s tissues. The amount of oxidative damage increases with age. According to one theory of aging, it is a major cause of the body’s decline.

The body has its own defense system for combating oxidative damage, but it does not always do enough. So antioxidants, which mop up the reactive oxygen compounds, may seem like a logical solution.

The researchers, led by Dr. Michael Ristow, a nutritionist at the University of Jena in Germany, tested this proposition by having young men exercise, giving half of them moderate doses of vitamins C and E and measuring sensitivity to insulin as well as indicators of the body’s natural defenses to oxidative damage.

The Jena team found that in the group taking the vitamins there was no improvement in insulin sensitivity and almost no activation of the body’s natural defense mechanism against oxidative damage. The reason, they suggest, is that the reactive oxygen compounds, inevitable byproducts of exercise, are a natural trigger for both of these responses. The vitamins, by efficiently destroying the reactive oxygen, short-circuit the body’s natural response to exercise.

Pentagon Replaces Top U.S. Commander in Afghanistan

By Elisabeth Bumiller and Thom Shanker

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David D. McKiernan, was forced out Monday in an abrupt shakeup intended to bring a more aggressive and innovative approach to a worsening seven-year-old war.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the decision in terse comments at the Pentagon, saying that “fresh eyes were needed” and that “a new approach was probably in our best interest.” When asked if the dismissal ended the general’s military career, Gates replied: “Probably.”

The move reflects a belief that the war in Afghanistan, waged against an increasingly strong Taliban and its supporters across a rugged, sprawling country, is growing ever more complex. Defense officials said that McKiernan, a respected career armor officer, had been removed primarily because he had brought too conventional an approach to the challenge.

He is to be replaced by Lt. Gen.

Stanley A. McChrystal, a former commander of the Joint Special Operations Command who served in Afghanistan as chief of staff of military operations in 2001 and 2002 and recently ran all commando operations in Iraq.

Forces under McChrystal’s command were credited with finding and capturing Saddam Hussein and with tracking and killing Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia. McChrystal’s success in using intelligence and firepower to track and kill insurgents, along with his training in unconventional warfare that emphasizes the need to protect the population, made him the best choice for the command in Afghanistan, Pentagon officials said.

At the same time, he will be confronted with deep tensions over the conduct of special operations forces in Afghanistan, whose aggressive tactics are seen by Afghan officials as directly responsible for many of the U.S. mistakes that have resulted in the deaths of Afghan civilians.

The announcement comes as Pentagon officials have begun to de-

scribe Afghanistan as the military’s top priority, even more important than the war in Iraq. President Barack Obama announced a major overhaul of U.S. strategy in Afghanistan in March; planned troop levels of more than 60,000 Americans will be the highest than at any time since U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban leadership in late 2001, a triumph that has given way to a protracted counterinsurgency campaign.

Pentagon officials said it appeared that McKiernan was the first general to be dismissed from command of a theater of combat since Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War.

At a Pentagon news conference on Monday, Gates praised McKiernan for what he called his “long and distinguished” service, but said of Afghanistan: “Our mission there requires new thinking and new approaches by our military leaders.” McKiernan had served in his current command for only 11 months, about half the length of such tours.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined Gates in making the announcement.

Iran Frees American Reporter Jailed for Espionage

By Nazila Fathi and Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

An Iranian-American journalist sentenced to eight years in prison on charges of spying for the United States was released Monday, a legal turnabout that removes an obstacle to President Barack Obama’s opening to Iran but illustrates the volatility of the Iranian government.

The journalist, Roxana Saberi, had been in jail since January, yet an appeals court rejected the sentence, a month after Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, wrote a letter urging the court to be fair in its review.

U.S. officials said Iran’s handling of the Saberi case underlines a deepening divide within its leadership about how to respond to Obama’s recent overtures. It also

reflects domestic politics a month before Ahmadinejad faces a critical election, according to analysts.

“Those who are trying to engage the U.S. won out,” said a senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. “There wasn’t going to be any major new administration initiative toward Iran without this case resolved.”

Saberi, 32, who has lived in Iran since 2003 and worked as a freelance reporter for National Public Radio and the BBC, was reunited with her parents and will return to the United States in the coming days, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said to reporters in Washington. She had originally been arrested for buying a bottle of wine, which is illegal in Iran. The charges were later elevated to working without a press

credential and espionage.

“We continue to take issue with the charges against her and the verdicts rendered, but we are very heartened that she has been released,” said Clinton, who had called for Saberi’s release.

Saberi’s father, Reza Saberi, who lives in Fargo, N.D., but was born in Iran, told reporters outside his family home here that his daughter was “exhausted but in good condition.”

Saberi did not talk to reporters after leaving Evin prison, which is known for housing political prisoners. She had gone on a hunger strike while in jail, but ended it after two weeks because of health problems.

U.S. officials and outside analysts believe Saberi’s arrest was politically motivated, at a time when the Obama administration is reaching out to Iran after nearly three decades of hostility.

WEATHER

A Little Bit of Everything

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

It’s becoming that time of year when terms like “pop up thunderstorms” or “hit-or-miss showers” are often found in the forecast. When one minute it is sunny, the next it can be pouring rain. As we transition to the summer season, if there is sufficient convection, moisture, and lift, this can trigger thunderstorms. Today’s chance of thunderstorms may make you wonder how there can be thunderstorms when it’s not that hot. This is because the convection from today’s scattered thunderstorms is “upside down.” Typically, convection is trigged from the strong heating at the surface. Instead, the instability here is from the cold air aloft. This too can drive buoyancy differences and help initiate thunderstorms.

Most of the thunderstorm activity will likely develop and stay to the west of Boston. As the thunderstorms approach campus, they will likely dissipate, due to the proximity of the cold ocean waters and the resulting relatively stable column of air. This is the reason why Boston doesn’t receive as many thunderstorms as its suburban counterparts.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a small chance of thunderstorms and an even smaller chance of hail. Highs near 60°F (16°C). Northeast winds 5 mph.

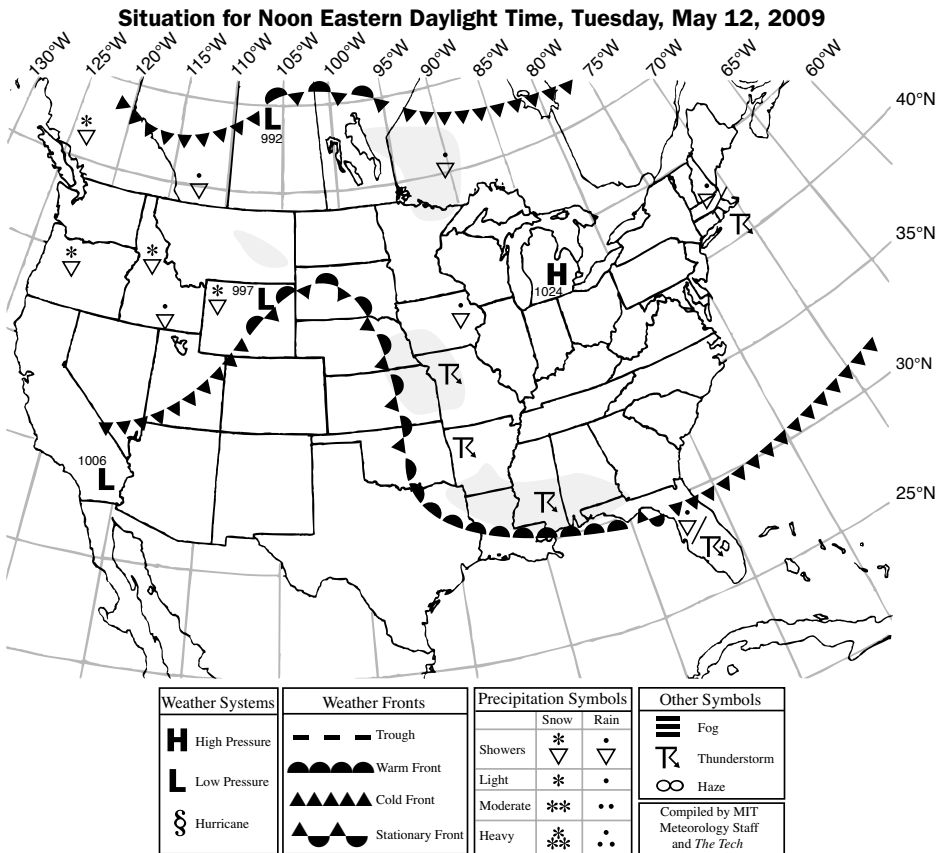
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, lows in the mid 40s°F (7°C). East winds 10 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, highs in the mid 60s°F (18°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s°F (20°C).

Friday: Sunny, highs in the lower 70s°F (22°C).

Saturday: Sunny, highs in the lower 70s°F (22°C).



At Obama Health Care Meeting, Goals Not Shared

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama engineered a political coup on Monday by bringing leaders of the health care industry to the White House to build momentum for his ambitious health care agenda.

Obama pronounced it “a historic day, a watershed event,” because doctors, hospitals, drug makers and insurance companies voluntarily offered \$2 trillion in cost reductions over 10 years. The savings, he said, “will help us take the next and most important step — comprehensive health care reform.”

Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, said Obama had told the health care executives, “You’ve made a commitment; we expect you to

keep it.”

If history is a guide, their commitments may not produce the promised savings. Their proposals are vague — promising, for example, to reduce both “overuse and underuse of health care.” None of the proposals are enforceable, and none of the savings are guaranteed. Without such a guarantee, budget rules would normally prevent Congress from using the savings to pay for new initiatives to cover the uninsured. At this point, cost control is little more than a shared aspiration.

Still, the event was significant. There was something in it for Obama, and something for the industry — though not necessarily the same thing. Their interests overlap but do not coincide.

For Obama, the White House meet-

ing was an opportunity to showcase his consensus-building approach. He is not cracking the whip on the health care industry so much as wooing it, just as he said he would in the campaign.

For the health care and insurance executives, the savings initiative helps them secure a seat at the table where many decisions about their future will be made in the next year. They also ingratiated themselves with Democrats in the White House and Congress who are moving swiftly to reshape the nation’s health care system.

“We came together in a serious way a couple of weeks ago,” said David H. Nexon, senior executive vice president of the Advanced Medical Technology Association, one of the six health care industry groups that promised to lower costs.

Book Publishers Face Digital Piracy Problems

By Motoko Rich
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ursula K. Le Guin, the science fiction writer, was perusing the Web site Scribd last month when she came across digital copies of some books that seemed quite familiar to her. No wonder. She wrote them, including a free-for-the-taking copy of one of her most enduring novels, “The Left Hand of Darkness.”

Neither Le Guin nor her publisher had authorized the electronic editions. To Le Guin, it was a rude introduction to the quietly proliferating problem of digital piracy in the literary world. “I thought, who do these people think they are?” Le Guin said. “Why do they think they

can violate my copyright and get away with it?”

This would all sound familiar to filmmakers and musicians who fought similar battles — with varying degrees of success — over the last decade. But to authors and their publishers in the age of Kindle, it’s new and frightening territory.

For a while now, determined readers have been able to sniff out errant digital copies of titles as varied as the “Harry Potter” series and best-sellers by Stephen King and John Grisham. But now, some publishers say, the problem has ballooned in recent months as an expanding appetite for e-books has spawned a bumper crop of pirated

editions on Web sites like Scribd and Wattpad, and on file-sharing services like RapidShare and MediaFire.

“It’s exponentially up,” said David Young, chief executive of Hachette Book Group, whose Little, Brown division publishes the “Twilight” series by Stephenie Meyer, a favorite among digital pirates. “Our legal department is spending an ever-increasing time policing sites where copyrighted material is being presented.”

John Wiley & Sons, a textbook publisher that also issues the “Dummies” series, employs three full-time staff members to trawl for unauthorized copies.

Senator Urges Inquiry into Bogus Auto Warranty Calls

By Karen Zraick
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Charles E. Schumer has never struggled to find a reason to hold a news conference on a Sunday. But the inspiration for the one on Mother’s Day arrived unexpectedly, when the senator’s cell phone rang during a health care meeting on Capitol Hill last week.

“You are still eligible to reactivate warranty coverage,” said the recorded voice on the line. “This is the final call before we close the file. Press 1 to speak to a representative now about your vehicle.”

Most people react with annoyance as soon as they hear the insistent — and all-too-familiar — voices and simply hang up. But, then, most people cannot investigate who is behind the call and take the information to the Federal Trade Commission.

Schumer, D-N.Y., had received three or four similar calls. But the one on Wednesday was the last straw.

“I’ve had enough,” Schumer said. “These are scam artists.”

The calls are intended to extract credit card numbers by selling fraudulent car warranty renewals, Schumer said, and are “invading cell phones at a growing rate.”

The senator is calling on the trade commission to investigate the outfits behind the calls.

Judge Sentenced to Prison for Lying About Harassment

By James C. McKinley Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

A federal judge who presided for nearly two decades in Galveston, Texas, was sentenced to 33 months in prison on Monday for lying to an investigative committee of judges about whether he had sexually harassed his secretary.

In a deal with prosecutors, the judge, Samuel B. Kent, pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in February just as his trial was getting under away. In return, the government agreed to drop five charges that he had repeatedly groped his secretary and his case manager, touching their genitals and breasts against their will. Both women have agreed to be publicly identified.

Kent, 59, admitted in his plea that he had forced himself on the two women, reversing his previous position that they had agreed to his advances. Handing down the sentence, Judge Roger Vinson of U.S. District Court said Kent’s conduct was “a stain on the judicial system itself.”

Dick DeGuerin, a lawyer for Kent, said the judge suffered from depression, alcoholism, diabetes and bipolar disease. Rather than resign before he serves his time in prison, Kent has asked to be allowed to claim that he is disabled so he can continue to collect his salary of \$169,300 a year, DeGuerin said.



MIT’S OWN RADIO STATION AT 88.1 FM
STREAMING RIGHT NOW AT WMBR.ORG

Listen up, join up!

Offering eclectic programming including rock, jazz, world, talk, noise, electronic, hip-hop, reggae, and more. Want your own show? Join in! You will broadcast across Boston and around the world, learn about radio and media, and have access to a record library with tens of thousands of records and CDs. We’re located in the basement of the Walker Memorial Building (building 50). Stop down sometime and see how easy it is to get on the air. Submit a proposal by May 22 and you can be on the air this summer. Or email membership@wmbr.org for more info.



Chairman

Austin Chu G

Editor in Chief

Nick Bushak '10

Business Manager

Mark Thompson '11

Managing Editor

Steve Howland '11

Executive Editor

Michael McGraw-Herdeg G

NEWS STAFF

News and Features Director: Arkajit Dey '11;
Editors: John A. Hawkinson '98, Jeff Guo '11, Natasha Plotkin '11; **Associate Editors:** Emily Prentice '11, Elijah Jordan Turner '11, Pearl Lipinski '12, Robert McQueen '12; **Staff:** Daniela Cako '09, Ji Qi '09, Yiwei Zhang '09, Yuri Hanada '10, JiHy Kim '10, Joyce Kwan '10, Jenny Liu '10, Yan Huang '11, Ryan Ko '11, Lulu Wang '11, Omar Abudayyeh '12, Jessica Lin '12, Meredith Lis '12, Maggie Lloyd '12, Sandhya Rawal '12, Zeina Siam '12, Aditi Verma '12; **Meteorologists:** Cegeon Chan G, Garrett P. Marino G, Brian H. Tang G, Angela Zalucha G, Elizabeth Maroon '10, Vince Agard '11.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Staff: K. Nichole Treadway '10, Alexander W. Dehnert '12.

OPINION STAFF

Editors: Andrew T. Lukmann G, Ethan Solomon '12; **Staff:** Florence Gallez G, Alejandro Rogers B. G, Gary Shu G, David Weinberg G, Keith A. Yost G, Josh Levinger '07, Krishna Gupta '09, Aditya Kohli '09, Jennifer Nelson '09, Daniel Yelin '10.

SPORTS STAFF

Editors: Aaron Sampson '10, David Zhu '12; **Staff:** Michael Gerhardt '12, Nydia Ruleman '12.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: S. Balaji Mani '10; **Staff:** Sudeep Agarwala G, Bogdan Fedeles G, Joanne Y. Shih '10, Kevin Wang '10, Sun K. Kim '11, Maggie Liu '12, Samuel Markson '12.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: David M. Templeton '08, Andrea Robles '10, William Yee '10, Rachel Fong '12; **Associate Editor:** Allison M. Alwan '12; **Staff:** Vincent Auyeung G, David Da He G, Perry Hung G, Maksim Imakaev G, Arthur Petron G, David Reshef G, Martin Segado G, Noah Spies G, Scott Johnston '03, Martha Angela Wilcox '08, Chelsea Grimm '09, Peter H. Rigano '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Seth A. Villarreal '09, Diana Ye '09, Biyeun Buczyk '10, Arka P. Dhar '10, Helen Hou '10, Monica Kahn '10, Diane Rak '10, Jongu Shin '10, Michael Yu '10, Dhaval Adjodah '11, Monica Gallegos '11, Vibin Kundukulam '11, Michael Y. McCanna '11, Michael Meyer '11, Kari Williams '11, Yuanyu Chen '12, Andrew Shum '12, Meng Heng Touch '12.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Michael T. Lin '11; **Staff:** Roberto Perez-Franco G, Danbee Kim '09, Sarah C. Proehl '09, Ben Shanks '09, Christine Yu '11; **Cartoonists:** Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer G, Jason Chan '09, Michael Ciuffo '11, Ben Peters '11, Michael Benitez '12.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Joseph Maurer '12, Greg Steinbrecher '12; **Operations Manager:** Sherry Yan '11; **Staff:** Michael Kuo '10, Heymian Wong '10, Nikhil Sud '11, Connie Chan '12, Mengjie Ding '12, Eric Trac '12.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Quentin Smith '10.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Ramya Sankar G, Shreyes Seshasai G, Nick Semenkovich '09, Caroline Huang '10, Jessica Witchley '10; **Senior Editors:** Brian Hemond G, Charles Lin G, Satwiksai Seshasai G, Benjamin P. Gleitzman '09, Ricardo Ramirez '09, Angeline Wang '09, Praveen Rathinavelu '10.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E. D. Richmond PhD '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Zachary Ozer '07, Marie Y. Thibault '08, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Jessica Witchley '10, Steve Howland '11, Greg Steinbrecher '12.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2009 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

Corrections

A “Stay Tuned...” feature which ran on the front page of the May 8 issue of *The Tech* incorrectly claimed that the Alpha Tau Omega chapter at MIT had lost its charter from the national fraternity. The article based the claim on minutes from a Cambridge License Commission meeting in January, which state that the chapter “lost their Parent Charter.” According to Wynn Smiley, chief executive officer of the national ATO organization, the chapter is in good standing with the national fraternity. See article, page 1.

An explanation of weather mythology from May 1 conveyed a misleading impression about the weather radar atop building 54 by describing it as a “shell,” suggesting essential components of the radar were missing, and stating the equipment had been transferred to Lincoln Laboratory. The large white radome atop building 54 does indeed house a weather radar dish, and its transmitter is located on the 19th floor beneath; the physical equipment is still present and has not been removed to Lincoln Laboratory.

Letters To The Editor

Palestine Awareness Week: Education and Dialogue

As organizers of the Palestine Awareness Week (PAW), we would like to clarify some of the issues and address the inaccuracies and omissions in Stephen Fried’s May 8 opinion piece (“The nth Annual Chomsky Rant in Bad Taste; Are We Moving Forward?”). The piece, which provides a good example of “ranting in bad taste,” suggests that PAW and similar educational activities are counterproductive obstacles to dialogue.

PAW is a week-long campaign to raise awareness on issues related to the Palestinian Question. PAW attempts to shed light on issues that are rarely discussed by mainstream media in the United States. By doing this, the organizers hope to provide the necessary background for an informed dialogue, and an on-campus venue for discussion. Lectures and movie screenings are usually followed by discussions in which students (including both Arabs and Israelis) and community members participate.

The week is organized by students of different nationalities and student groups who believe that ending the 42 year long illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is necessary for lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. The organizers are involved in many on and off campus initiatives and programs including OLPC Palestine, MISTI Israel, and MEET (Middle-East Education through Technology). Over the years,

PAW events have been organized and sponsored by Palestine@MIT, the Arab Students’ Organization, the Muslim Students Association, Amnesty International (MIT Chapter), the Social Justice Cooperative, and the Latino Cultural Center, as well as members of the MIT faculty.

This year, PAW began with a lecture by MIT Professor Noam Chomsky on the U.S., Israel, and Palestine. While it is true that Chomsky speaks frequently about the conflict in the Middle East, this lecture focused on the role of the Obama administration in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the prospects for peace and change in the Middle East. The high turnout for the lecture seems to suggest great interest in the topic among members of the MIT community.

The second PAW lecture, which Fried fails to mention, was given by Anat Biletzki, a professor at Tel Aviv University, and a research fellow at the MIT Program for Human Rights and Justice. Biletzki has been active in the peace movement and in human rights projects in Israel for over 25 years. She is highly regarded among human rights activists and academics and was nominated among the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005.”

Biletzki spoke about the relationship between human rights and politics and about human rights in the occupied territories, with a focus on the work of her organization, B’Tselem — the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, which she chaired from 2001 to 2006. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Arab Students’ Organization, the Muslim Students Association, and Amnesty International (MIT Chapter).

Other PAW activities included an information booth and two movie screenings. The first movie (*Occupation 101*), which was indeed screened last year, is an award-winning documentary that provides an accessible introduction to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, with a focus on the situation in the occupied territories. It discusses issues such as suicide bombings, the separation barrier, the restriction of movement, and other problems that define the everyday life in Israel-Palestine.

The second movie (*Slingshot Hip Hop*) tells the stories of up-and-coming hip hop artists living in Israel and the occupied territories. The movie explores underground aspect of Palestinian youth culture such themes as gender expectations, racial divides, generational differences, as well as the struggles of living with the Separation Wall, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the lack of freedom of movement caused by military checkpoints.

MIT Palestine Awareness Week 2009 expressed the organizers’ commitment to productive and educational discourse. Even more so than in previous years, PAW 2009 included a diverse collection of events that covered different aspects of the situation in Israel-Palestine. The organizers of this year’s Palestine Awareness Week would like to emphasize that the events held during PAW are meant to provide context and supplement, not replace, opportunities for dialogue.

Ammar T. Ammar '09

Hussam A. Busfar G

Zekeriyya Gemici G

Lorenzo B. Brown '10

On behalf of the PAW organizers

A Word on Palestinian Activism at MIT

Iman Kandil

In my four years at MIT, I have observed that every effort to present a viewpoint that is somewhat critical of Israel or that is promoting a more fair-handed approach to achieving peace in the Middle East is met with negativity and attempts to stifle expression.

As a Palestine Awareness Week (PAW) 2007 organizer, I was deeply offended at the defamatory posters that replaced PAW publicity materials across campus. The posters depicted images of suicide bombers and replaced “MIT Palestine Awareness Week” with “MIT Ignore Hate Week” and “MIT Ignore Terrorism Week”. To express our surprise and regret at the tasteless and hateful flyers, the organizers wrote a letter to *The Tech* on May 4, 2007 (<http://tech.mit.edu/V127/N23/letters.html>).

In early February of this year, an artistic display featuring the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the MLK Exhibit in Lobby 10 mysteriously disappeared (*The Tech*, March 3, 2009). When the non-partisan Lecture Series Committee (LSC) decided to screen the internationally acclaimed film *Paradise Now*, it was met with harsh opposition and wild accusations of supporting terrorism and suicide bombers. Additionally, public show of support for the people of Gaza

during the recent brutal and disproportionately tragic assault by the Israeli Defense Forces was met with scorn and contention by some.

Contrary to the claims made by a few, Palestinian activism at MIT is not limited to the annual Palestine Awareness Week. In the past four years, several exhibitions of Palestinian culture have been organized, including the 2005 Simon Shaheen concert, the 2005 El Funoun dance show, and the 2006 art exhibit, as well as efforts to promote educational achievement among Palestinian youth by the Arab Students Organization’s College Admissions Arab Mentorship Program.

In response to the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, MIT’s Muslim Students Association hosted a successful inter-collegiate fundraising dinner to benefit the people of Gaza. Of course, members of the Palestinian activist community at MIT, including Palestinians and those of other nationalities, have also participated in efforts like MEET and MISTI Israel.

It is incendiary and divisive to suggest that PAW organizers promote hate or disunity by hosting events that present information from a point of view that may not be palatable to some. The Palestine Awareness Weeks at MIT do not include hateful and inflammatory events. Organizers aim to present the humanitarian and historical background of the conflict in Israel

and Palestine in the most accurate and factual way. After all, isn’t that what we are taught to do at MIT: challenge conventional opinions by examining weak arguments and base our arguments upon facts?

MIT is a place where different thoughts and ideas are allowed to be heard without fear of facing intolerance from the surrounding community (as it should be). PAW is integral to that notion, promoting discourse and voicing opinions and ideas that might otherwise lie silent. We live in a society where we have the freedom to hear and express diverse ideas. When people start suppressing that speech through hateful posters, disappearing exhibits and accusatory responses — that is a real cause for uproar.

Overlooking and suppressing painful truths that make us uncomfortable does not bring us closer to a just and lasting peace and dismissing honest efforts to promote understanding on such a widely misrepresented issue surely does not serve to promote open dialogue. As Susan Hockfield said, “At MIT we accept many ways of voicing ideas and sharing dissenting opinions. However, the privilege of working and studying here carries a concomitant obligation to share our views respectfully.” We only expect respect and the chance to be heard.

Iman Kandil is a member of the Class of 2009.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Opinion Editors Andrew T. Lukmann and Ethan Solomon, and Joseph Maurer.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will

be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*’s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tech.mit.edu>.

Re-Embracing the Institute’s Mission

Administration’s Actions Belie Community Goals

Drew Altschul

The current MIT administration has made a long series of inappropriate decisions on issues of student life and beyond which dismally fail to uphold the core values of MIT. One might ask, however, how can one define those core values? Mightn’t administrators just be doing their best but have a different viewpoint?

Yes, values are particularly subjective when there is no foundation. Fortunately, MIT has just such a foundation: its mission statement. The most objective means of evaluating decisions made at the Institute is by looking at the official MIT mission statement and the history which has grown up around that statement.

“The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will

best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.” The statement additionally declares that MIT seeks “to develop in each member of the MIT community the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind.”

Is trying to improve MIT not trying to improve the world? To have an effect on life at MIT is to have an effect on the thousands of graduates yet to come, who will in turn improve the world through their own work. Is having passion to labor toward a creative solution to MIT’s problems not an attitude that this statement wishes to empower?

The Baker Dining Report is an excellent example of a situation where students took great initiative, spent hours analyzing data, synthesized conclusions, and created a well constructed document which pointed out flaws which the MIT dining office had missed. Yet, the Baker Report was effectively ignored by the administration. This behavior by the ad-

ministration sends a particular message to students: “Yes, we want you to go out into the world and make MIT look good, but we don’t want you messing with MIT, particularly if it would make more work for us.”

This message is in juxtaposition to the core message proudly touted by administrators at fund-raising and recruitment events each year, as well as in the regular addresses to the MIT community. In President Susan Hockfield’s first welcoming message to the new academic year of 2005, she stated that “there are opportunities for us to work together even more productively than we do now... In addition to helping to solve the world’s problems through our research, we must also rededicate ourselves to an education that prepares our students to be the leaders of a world...”

If the MIT Administration wants to ease student unrest, then they need to realize that the reason why students protest and complain is because MIT told them to do so. Adminis-

trators tell the world that MIT students are innovative and driven. They’re right. The student unrest of this academic year and the entire history of student activism at MIT is cogent proof that MIT students are just what the Institute hopes to give back to the world.

Here’s the bottom line: the MIT community includes the Administration, and they are, thus, subject to the expectations of the MIT mission. They too should learn to work wisely, creatively, and effectively, respecting other members of the MIT community for expecting these qualities of themselves and others. If an administrator is not interested in MIT as this unique entity, then they should not be here. Active, engaged and vocal students embody exactly what the Administration and our mission as a community calls for.

The MIT Mission Statement can be read in full at <http://web.mit.edu/facts/mission.html>

Drew Altschul is a member of the Class of 2008.

Fifty Years of ‘The Two Cultures’

C.P. Snow’s Landmark Lecture Is More Relevant Than Ever

Gary Shu

May 7 marked the 50th anniversary of C.P. Snow’s influential talk, “The Two Cultures.” In his lecture and subsequent book, the English writer and physicist described the widening gulf between the humanities and science.

For some reason, what people thought of as “intellectuals” ignored the contributions of scientists even though much of humanity’s knowledge marches along the path of the technical arts. C.P. Snow succinctly expressed himself with a story:

“A good many times I have been present at gatherings of people who, by the standards of the traditional culture, are thought highly educated and who have with considerable gusto been expressing their incredulity at the illiteracy of scientists.”

“Once or twice I have been provoked and have asked the company how many of them could describe the Second Law of Thermodynamics. The response was cold: it was also negative.”

“Yet I was asking something which is the scientific equivalent of: Have you read a work of Shakespeare’s?”

As someone trained in science, when I first read of this exchange I was encouraged that this was a historically recognized (albeit unsolved)

problem. After all, what was called “natural philosophy” is one of the only genuinely universal forms of knowledge.

Like $F = m \cdot a$ or $s = dQ/T$, science’s enduring statements will be true whether we’re in a Bangladeshi jungle, on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, or on the other side of a Galilean moon. You can’t say the same about the aesthetics of St. Peter’s Basilica without the baggage that Western civilization brings.

Scientific laws govern our existence and technologies rely on our ability to understand and manipulate the rules of nature. Without true scientific and technical scholarship, our world would not have steadily increasing life expectancies, 160-story buildings sprung from the middle of the desert, an ability to track our friends’ whims from across the world, or machines in our pockets that would have been considered supercomputers thirty years ago.

One could reasonably declare the war between the two cultures won. The humanities have slunk into a fifty-year morass from which they have yet to emerge from, while the vast majority of the world’s recent progress has advanced through innovations in technology. Science is — and has been — ascendant.

And yet, I would still claim an educated (American) person is someone who has read Shakespeare.

We live in a society of common values. We built our institutions to support the principles

we have agreed upon. To wantonly ignore the urban history that produced a city like Boston or to tinker in the lab while neglecting the great lineage of thought behind scientific enquiry are both types of ignorance similar to that of C.P. Snow’s partygoers.

Promoters of the humanities argue that a “learning for its own sake” liberal arts university provides its students with critical thinking skills that are widely applicable, regardless of their later career choice. But if this is true, why don’t I trust a random sociology major to provide me an accurate balance sheet model? Conversely, would I rely on a chemical engineering graduate to give me a one-sentence description of “deconstructionism”?

While administrators and legislators have been promoting more professionalization in college education, the exact opposite should be happening: we should argue for an authentic liberal arts education that encompasses the tradition humanities core curriculum with a broad and basic scientific background along the lines of MIT’s General Institute Requirements.

Such a graduate would be equipped to handle any task that the modern world demands, whether it’s to write a report for a policymaker or to hunker down behind a microscope, because he or she would draw on the best of both traditions while avoiding their weaknesses.

When the problems we’re confronted with require technical solutions to social problems

— healthcare, the economy, energy, the environment — we do little right in reproducing the past’s myopia through a balkanized education system. Interdisciplinary programs are poor substitutes by providing too little of all. Higher education should be laying a much firmer foundation of the breadth of human knowledge — the original intent of the classic university — in both science and the humanities.

The humanities guide our values, but we need science to understand the world and what remains possible. Technology gives us tools for solving problems, but we need the humanities to understand which ones we want and how to apply them. Those that bridge the two cultures and understand the interaction at the link will be best able to tackle tomorrow’s difficulties and lead us through the next century.

There are still unanswered questions though. How do we fit our technical solutions into the other cultures of the world? Will we be able to guide tomorrow’s advances into an agreement with our values and vice versa?

Most importantly: how do we continue to bridge the gap between the humanities and science so they not only start speaking to each other, but also inform and advance the other?

In a world where tomorrow’s solutions require exponentially more technical knowledge, C.P. Snow’s fifty-year old lament remains as fresh as ever. The Two Cultures continues to be a problem worth thinking about.

Goldilocks and the Three Lessons from the Derivatives Market

The Moral of the Story Is to Lock Your Damn House

Keith Yost

Imagine for a moment that you are a commercial bank called the Papa Bear Bank Company. You accept deposits from large businesses and use the money to make loans to other businesses and consumers. The interest on the money you loan out is a little bit higher than the interest you pay to your depositors, and as a result you make a tidy bit of revenue. You use this revenue to pay your workers, dole out dividends to your shareholders, and host the occasional junket in Yellowstone.

All is well.

But then you notice something unnerving. Maybe the places you’ve chosen to lend to have some common factor that affects them all. It could be the interest rate set by the Fed, or the exchange rate with some foreign country, or even weather conditions — whatever it is, if it moves, then the default rate on your entire portfolio goes up.

You still like where you loaned your money and believe that, on average, this set of investments will give you the highest rate of return, but you don’t like this idea that all your risk is correlated. You’d much rather have a consistent small number of businesses not paying you back than alternating between periods where everyone pays you back and no one does.

Then you come across another bank, the Mama Bear Bank Association, which has a similar, but opposite problem. Whereas you don’t like it when the weather is too cold, Mama Bear runs into trouble when the temperature is too hot. You strike upon a brilliant idea — you’ll create a new financial instrument whose value is tied

to the temperature (as measured by some reputable agency). Then, you’ll sell this instrument to Mama Bear. If the temperature goes up, you’ll pay Mama Bear some amount of money. And of course, with the money from this sale, you can buy a financial instrument from Mama Bear wherein you get paid if the temperature goes down. By hedging each other’s losses in this manner, your banks can make the risk “just right.”

You decide to call this new financial instrument a “derivative” because the value of the instrument is “derived” from some underlying item (in this case, temperature). You tell other banks about your brilliant idea, derivatives are hailed as the best new thing in risk management since bowls of porridge, and soon everybody is using them to hedge all kinds of risk.

At the end of 2000, commercial banks in the U.S. held derivatives with a total notional value of \$40 trillion dollars. By the third quarter of 2008, the value had ballooned to more than \$175 trillion, representing nearly a third of the worldwide derivatives market. 80 percent of these derivatives use interest rates as the underlying, another 10 percent are so-called “Credit Default Swaps” which are insurance against the default of some enterprise, and the remaining 10 percent are tied to various odds and ends like the temperature or exchange rates or some such. Of this \$175 trillion in bets, \$162 trillion are held by the three largest banks: JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citibank.

Here’s where derivatives start to get a little disconcerting. The combined assets of these three banks are only \$4.3 trillion. The sizes of the derivative bets that have been taken are all out of whack with the assets they are supposed to insure — it’s as if two men, each with only

ten thousand dollars to their name, decided to sit down and make a \$1 million bet with one another. Papa Bear’s idea was fantastic, but clearly some little blond-haired femme fatale has snuck in and used it to engage in some highly leveraged speculation. Maybe Goldilocks had calculated that 99.5% of the time she’d get away scott-free, but one has to wonder what her contingency plan was for the rare situation when the bears came back.

Indeed, if the children’s tale is any guide, banks are in for a very grisly reckoning when they wake up from the bed they’ve made. The problem with letting two bankers make a trillion dollar bet with each other is that when one of them loses, they may simply go bankrupt rather than pay out. The “winner” of the bet can actually lose money in this way — we call this “counterparty risk.”

In the euphoric days before the crash, counterparty risk was the distant concern of academics — today, when some banks may very well topple (even if for reasons unrelated to derivatives), counterparty risk may be the mechanism by which banks fall like dominoes, each bank failure leading to a growing number of devastated derivatives partners until the cascade fells them all. Today, some banks find themselves in the odd position that while derivatives are supposed to be zero-sum games (one bank’s loss is another’s gain), neither side in a bet is able to sell their stake for more than they originally purchased it. The reason is simple: the market doubts that the winning side will be able to collect.

Still, there are some reasons to praise derivatives. The housing bubble was colossal... all things being equal, one would have expected more bank failures than we’ve seen today. But instead,

when the bad assets came to surface, it turned out that the risk was very well spread. Instead of one or two banks taking the hit and leaving taxpayers with the tab, a whole slew of banks, from Asia to Europe to the U.S, took their share of the pain. The success of this risk management is due in part to the wonderful flexibility of derivatives.

The original moral of the Goldilocks tale was to keep one’s nose out of other people’s houses. The main lesson from the derivatives market is somewhat the opposite: regulators should have been overseeing derivatives just like any other asset. Unchecked, derivatives pose a risk not only to a bank’s ability to pay off its own creditors, but also to the health of the financial system as a whole.

A second lesson is that derivatives are a pretty effective way to manage risk. The \$175 trillion holdings of the U.S. commercial banks might be unjustifiably high, but the optimal size of the market is clearly non-zero.

The third lesson, unappreciated by lawmakers, is that now is not the time to lobotomize bank leadership. In the aftermath of the financial crisis, banks are unwinding their complicated instruments, a task made even more herculean by the absence of a liquid market to price these bets. Including an executive pay cap in the stimulus bill as a punitive measure might have had popular appeal, but these are not the right circumstances to go bargain hunting for executives — this is a time to break out the top-shelf brains. Anything less is tempting fate.

As the bank crisis abates, legislators are turning their attention to the weighty task of changing the regulatory structure that governs the financial system. Reining in derivatives must take a place on the agenda.

CAMPUS LIFE

Brouhaha Rhythm

Rass Brats

By Michael Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

I got my MIT class ring, or “Brass Rat,” last Friday, along with the other jewelry-inclined members of the class of 2011 who bought them, and I have to be honest, it’s taking some getting used to. I consider myself to be a non-aesthetically-minded sort of person (because it sounds nicer than “fashion-handicapped”), and an engraved beaver visible from orbit isn’t what I usually think of as a digital accessory. Yet here I am, staring at the hunk of metal on my finger and twiddling it back and forth like an indecisive electric screwdriver.

There’s a peculiar mixture of emotions associated with receiving my Brass Rat. A sense of power that, I imagine, would make even Green Lantern jealous. The feeling of relief in knowing that come next CPW, only the very inatten-

tive will mistake me for a prefrosh. The familiar giddiness of having something new to show off to others — heck, I’d wear a floral bonnet if I’d just gotten it and thought it was pretty. Yet mingled among those feelings is a characteristic self-consciousness. Although I have a great deal of pride in my Brass Rat, it’s changed a great deal more than how much time it takes me to wash my hands or how readily I can pull my wallet out of my pocket.

Sure, now I have my very own Brass Rat, but that hardly sets me apart from the rest of my classmates that got one and only slightly apart from the ring-wearers of any preceding

class. It makes me a little more like Terence Howard and Robert Downey, Jr. in *Iron Man*, though. When I go home for the summer, I’ll be constantly paranoid that doing anything conspicuous with my right hand, like rubbing my face, scratching my nose, or executing the subordinate underling du jour via Forcechoke, will come off as pretentious. I mean, I suppose now is as good a time as any to develop ambidexterity — it’s been on my to-do list for years — but I don’t want to hide my Brass Rat, only not appear to drawing attention to it. The last thing I want to do is upset some hypothetical person who is vehemently

bitter over being rejected by MIT and breaks down into tears at every mention of it. Like I said, I’m probably being paranoid.

Wearing a Brass Rat on my hand and a variety of hats on my head (sometimes simultaneously) is honestly as far as my ability/willingness to accessorize goes most of the time. I don’t wear much in the way of jewelry like rings or medallions, and I need a piercing like I need a hole in the head. Still, for the right outfit, one is prepared to make exceptions. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I have to do some shopping today. After seeing a certain tiara-rich operetta the other day, I’ve determined that the price of dignity just might be worth it, and there’s only one way to find out. Best of luck on finals to all, and remember — if nothing else, at least you got something shiny out of your time here.

Sure, now I have my very own Brass Rat, but that hardly sets me apart from the rest of my classmates that got one.

Talk Nerdy To Me

Happily Ever After

By Christine Yu
STAFF COLUMNIST

When I run into people these days, I sometimes get asked, “Are you still writing your column?” If you’ve been following, my articles, this term, have been much more sporadic, and it’s not because I’m running low on material. If anything, I’ve been having more sex rather than less.

At the start of this term, I embraced monogamy. It wasn’t as easy for me as it sounds, and I shouldn’t summarize it so lightly. Even so, I don’t want to gush, either. We’re not “young and in love,” and I wouldn’t even label us as a “couple.” Honestly, I’ve just been having sex with one guy this whole semester: one guy I care about, about whom I care too much to write every sordid detail of our intimate life. When I started this column, I only knew about

healthy relationships from reading about them. While I wouldn’t always refer to this affair as mature, it’s stable and supportive.

When we first started hanging out, I wanted to chronicle “us,” by often blogging too much. After a few emotional outbursts online, which ended up distributed through his fraternity’s e-mail server, I learned my lesson. I even feel slightly guilty writing this now (as it might end up on said server). What’s important, however, is that he’s made me into a better person.

Looking back on my old articles, I still laugh at some of my encounters, but I no lon-

ger get the same thrill from that lifestyle. I never imagined I would one day find a guy who actually cared about me, who would see everything I wrote — everything I used to be. When I started writing, I was bitter and confused. I had sexual encounters in high school, but they were nowhere near as awkward and complicated as my experiences at MIT. I wanted to get all of these stories out of my system, and I might’ve hurt some guys in the process. I see my flaws and mistakes now. I don’t regret my decision to start this column — it at least got the campus talking about sex from time to time. However, if I hurt any feelings in the pro-

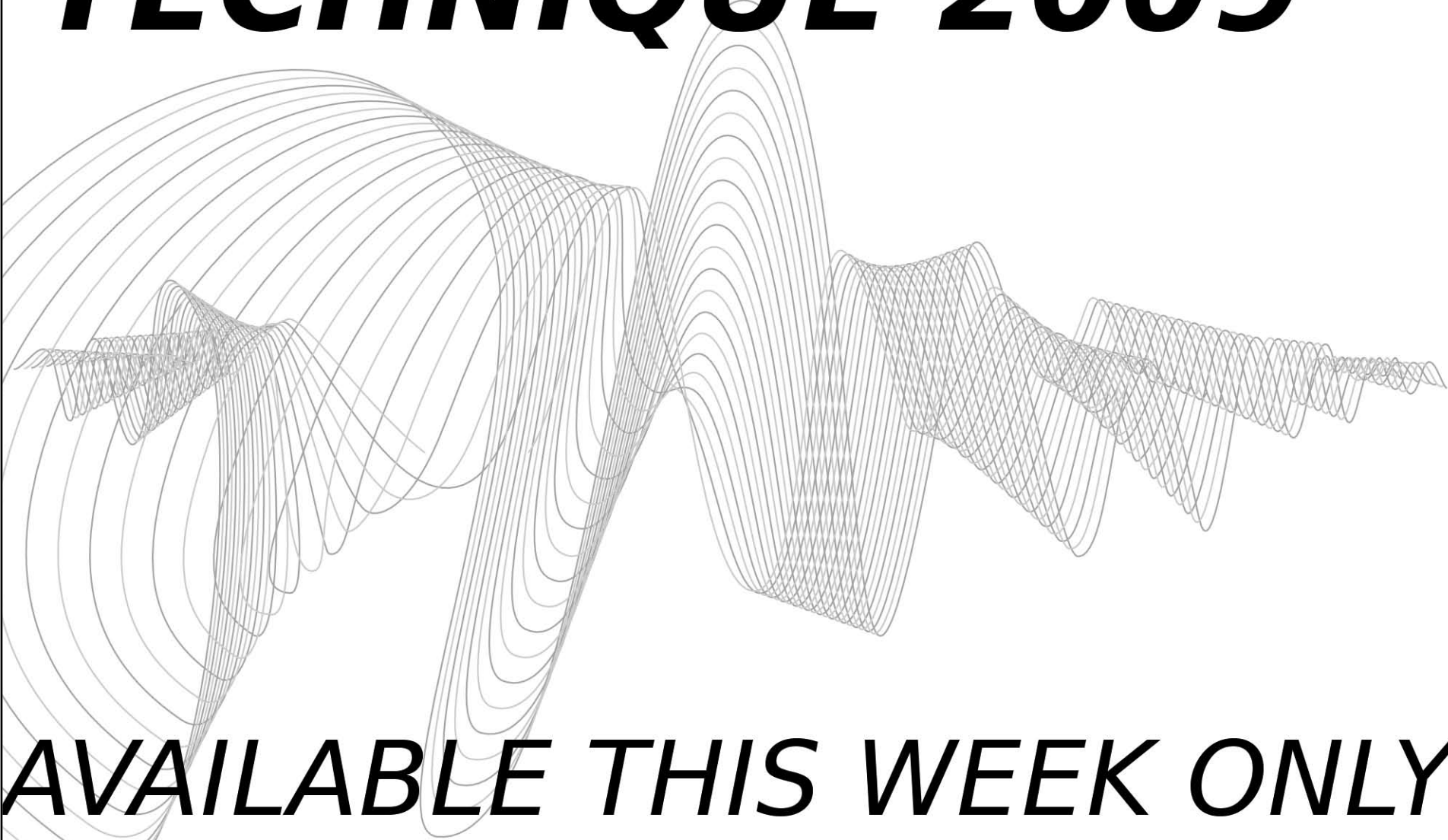
cess, I never intended it.

And it’s not like I’m expecting a “happily ever after” from my current relationship. At this point, I might not even deserve one. If we break up (and come on, summer is around the corner), I don’t want to go back to whom I used to be. He’s showed me what it’s like to care and to be cared about, and for that he will always be special. Our sex life will, to a certain degree, always be off-limits in my writing.

It’s easy for me to say, “Time heals all wounds,” or “There’s someone for everyone,” when I’m happy. And, it’s not like I’ve been in a state of euphoria for this whole term, but for the most part, I am happier. Maybe I won’t get a “happy ending,” but even if I don’t, I’ll at least know of a time when I came close to one.

At the start of this term, I embraced monogamy. It wasn’t as easy for me as it sounds, and I shouldn’t summarize it so lightly.

TECHNIQUE 2009



AVAILABLE THIS WEEK ONLY

Only \$60 - Pick-up or purchase in the Student Center (in front of LaVerde's)

technique.mit.edu

ARTS

RESTAURANT REVIEW

The French-Cambodian Culinary Wedding

Go Spicy, Meaty, or Vegan at Elephant Walk

By **Angela Wilcox**
STAFF WRITER

Elephant Walk
900 Beacon St. & 2067 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston & Porter Square
617-247-1500 (Boston),
617-492-6900 (Porter Square)

Though there were no elephants to be found at the Elephant Walk in Boston, my date Eric and I were pleasantly surprised to find a place that serves up elegant Cambodian cuisine as well as original French dishes. The extensive menu is a bit overwhelming at first, but it is well organized into Cambodian, French, and even Vegetarian and Gluten-Free (a rare find in the Boston area). Chef and owner Nadsa De Monteiro, originally from Cambodia, delivers traditional meals but has also created her own inspired

recipes that still preserve the flavor of Cambodia. First impressions are everything, and before we had even reached our table, I was already impressed with the quality of the service. We were greeted immediately by a cheerful hostess, and our waiter gave us just the right amount of time before asking for our orders. He checked back with us frequently, and our water glasses were never empty. The space is rather large with 45 tables and huge windows looking out over Beacon Street, but even on a Wednesday night, the restaurant hardly felt empty; the atmosphere was very comfortable with some folks wearing khakis and others in more formal attire. The menu contains options for vegetarians, vegans, those who want to play it safe, and those who feel adventurous. There's certainly something for everyone, so this place

would be great for a group that has a diverse taste palate. I chose to try the Cambodian-themed tasting menu (a three-course menu for \$29.95), which is a best buy given the quantity of good food. I received the vegan chilled avocado citrus soup as an appetizer, and my entrée was the crevettes amrita, a dish with shrimp sautéed in a sweet sauce surrounded by crisp, freshly chopped pears. Both were very unique and not overly spicy, and the emphasis on citrus paired perfectly with the warm temperatures in Boston as of late.

Eric ordered the French starter: the crepe de canard aux poires, a savory crepe filled with duck, pears, scallions, and crème fraîche (\$12.95), and the Kobe beef et gratin de pommes de terre aux champignons, beef grilled with red wine reduction alongside potato gratin with wild mushrooms (\$27.95). Though we had mixed feelings about the strength of the flavor of the sauce paired with the Kobe beef, the duck crepe starter was an impressive combination of sweet and savory and extremely tender duck, an absolute must try! Because the kitchen was busy, our waiter also brought us a complimentary order of the rouleaux, Cambodian spring rolls filled with pork, crushed peanut, and veggies (\$8.95), which we covered in mint leaves before hand-dipping into a delicious tangy fish sauce, typical of the Cambodian culinary experience.

For dessert as part of my three-course menu, I selected the mousse aux fruits de passion, a creamy passionfruit mousse which was presented in a crisp almond cookie and garnished with fresh slices of pineapple. Eric ordered le peche au chocolat, a beautifully-rich chocolate truffle cake swirled with a light raspberry sauce (\$8). The presentation of these treats was as finely-tuned as their deep tastes, and though I was already satiated after my main meal, I savored every bite of my mousse.

Though the Kobe beef was only mediocre, the other dishes we ordered were really tasty and exotic. I best enjoy food that I know would



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

The pastry chef at Elephant Walk prepares a dessert called Mousse aux Fruits de Passion, a tart passion fruit mousse served in an almond lace cup, garnished with fresh pineapple chunks, and macerated in dark rum, sugar, and citrus on Wednesday, April 29.

be a challenge to make on my own because of the exceptional flavor combination, and the duck crepe especially made me wish I could be so creative in the kitchen. Fortunately, the restaurant offers reasonably-priced group cooking classes (see their website for more details), and the chef was even kind enough to share with us the secret behind the citrus soup that I had as my appetizer! I highly recommend the Elephant Walk as a restaurant to explore a new cuisine but also as a place that will satisfy any taste preference. And, I will personally be trying on my cooking hat and attempting the Elephant Walk recipe shared to the left.

Chilled Avocado Citrus Soup from Nadsa de Monteiro's The Elephant Walk
4 Servings

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 quart orange juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 cup lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp garlic, chopped
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 avocados, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 2/3 cup button mushrooms, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 2 cups plum tomatoes, diced without pulp
- 1 tbsp cilantro, chopped

Cover the chopped onion with 1 tbsp salt for 20 to 30 minutes. Rinse the salt completely off the onion, then drain and squeeze off excess water.

Mix remaining salt, black pepper, orange juice, lime juice, garlic, and sugar. Add olive oil and mix well. Add the diced avocados, mushrooms, tomatoes, and onion. Stir gently to mix. Let chill one hour before serving.

Directly before serving, add 1 tbsp cilantro to soup and stir to mix.

CONCERT REVIEW

MIT Symphony Orchestra Performs with MIT Chamber Chorus

Groups Perform Works of Welcher, Stravinsky, Ravel, and Shostakovich

By **Sudeep Agarwala**
STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra
MIT Chamber Chorus
Adam Boyles, conductor
Kresge Auditorium
May 8, 2009

Maybe it's glib to say, but I have a hypothesis that the volume knob has led to the destruction of classical music. The fast-forward and the rewind button too, but the volume knob more than anything else: Music can be painfully loud or imperceptibly soft, but modulating volumes for the sake of homogeneity of the listenable somehow disrupts the ultimate message. Extremity in music makes a very important point, even if it's uncomfortable to listen to.

The MIT Symphony Orchestra presented a very loud concert on last Friday, and for a good purpose — a concert of Stravinsky, Ravel, and Shostakovich isn't necessarily standard fare for the concert hall, but all works were received and performed with an exhilarating exuberance.

The evening's concert crackled with the opening of Welcher's *Spumante* even before the initial applause had subsided. Originally commissioned for the Boston Pops, Welcher's work was more accessible than many of the pieces that were performed on Friday evening. This doesn't translate into less nuanced music, however — an initial, fizzy pop followed by a staid chorale creatively culminated in a satisfying conclusion.

These are games that musicians have been playing since the inception of Western music, and the second work at Friday's concert, *Chorale-Variations on Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her*, composed by Stravinsky, was

essentially this: a study on how a chorale tune by Bach can interact with itself in seemingly endless possibilities. Or Maurice Ravel's *Tzigane*, performed with concerto competition winner Tanya S. Goldhaber '09 — a rhapsody on a Hungarian melody that becomes expounded and elaborated upon throughout the entire composition.

As easy as the concepts behind the music may seem, the music is almost impossibly complex. Performed with a partial orchestra and the MIT Chamber chorus, Stravinsky's arrangement of Bach's chorale lacks the grounding, stentorian cantus firmus we're so used to when we're listening to the Baroque master, making the work difficult to perform. At times the ensemble seemed somewhat imbalanced in confidence but also in instrumentation — brass and woodwinds sometimes obfuscated finer details of the string instrumentation and choral parts. But Stravinsky's smaller settings of Renaissance works often misses the attention of larger performance venues and professional venues. To perform the work, at any level, is to be able to explore the great mind of a great thinker of music in finer detail than the world cares to know.

Ravel's *Tzigane* was arresting. Although intonation and articulation were at times imprecise, what was particularly stunning about Goldhaber's performance was her ability to interpret Ravel's Hungarian reverie with a sense of ownership both musically and emotionally. Somehow, the solo opening changed from stately recital to vigorous folk-melody. Goldhaber performed with an authenticity and fervor that indicated a deep relationship with the music. This understanding was not lost on an orchestra that exuded the excitement of a Gypsy folk troupe.

To be honest, it seems silly to write about Shostakovich. The public perception of the twelfth symphony, as it seems with all of

Shostakovich's music, is riddled with neurotic navel-gazing about his political leanings. Though this sort of discourse is an interesting academic exercise, it seems to scare people off from the ultimate take home message of it all: this is incredible music, and MITSO responded in kind. In fact, the entire evening seemed to be twinged with fragments of Shostakovich; individual instrumentalists could be heard rehearsing the all-encompassing theme prior to the performance and during intermissions and even following Mr. Boyles's introductory remarks about Shostakovich's symphony, an electrified silence seized both audience and orchestra.

As with all the music performed on Friday evening, Shostakovich's work is not easy — certainly kudos are due to all the performers on stage, but Shostakovich, in particular, requires an almost-professional bass and woodwind section. Horns were impeccable yet nuanced

in their articulation, bassoons played each note in hair-raising runs as if they were pearls on a string. This was, in its own rite, the most impressive part about the performance — the attention to detail in Shostakovich's work spoke volumes not only about Boyles's preparation of the orchestra, but also about the dedication of each student to reach a complete synthesis of the substantial work.

There's an argument that young musicians performing major works run into problems: there's a need to develop a sense of musical maturity and development before attempting a major work. But if that's true, the way we hear this music at one age is completely different from how we hear it after a week, a year, or much longer. Perhaps, that's part of what's so interesting about performing and hearing music often and early. And, truth be told, why it's all the more valuable not just to hear, but to experience it earlier.

CUSTOM PRINTED & EMBROIDERED
T-SHIRTS
SWEATSHIRTS - POLOS - HATS & MORE!

ph - 617-625-3335
email - info@qrsts.com
www.qrsts.com
Somerville, MA




Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

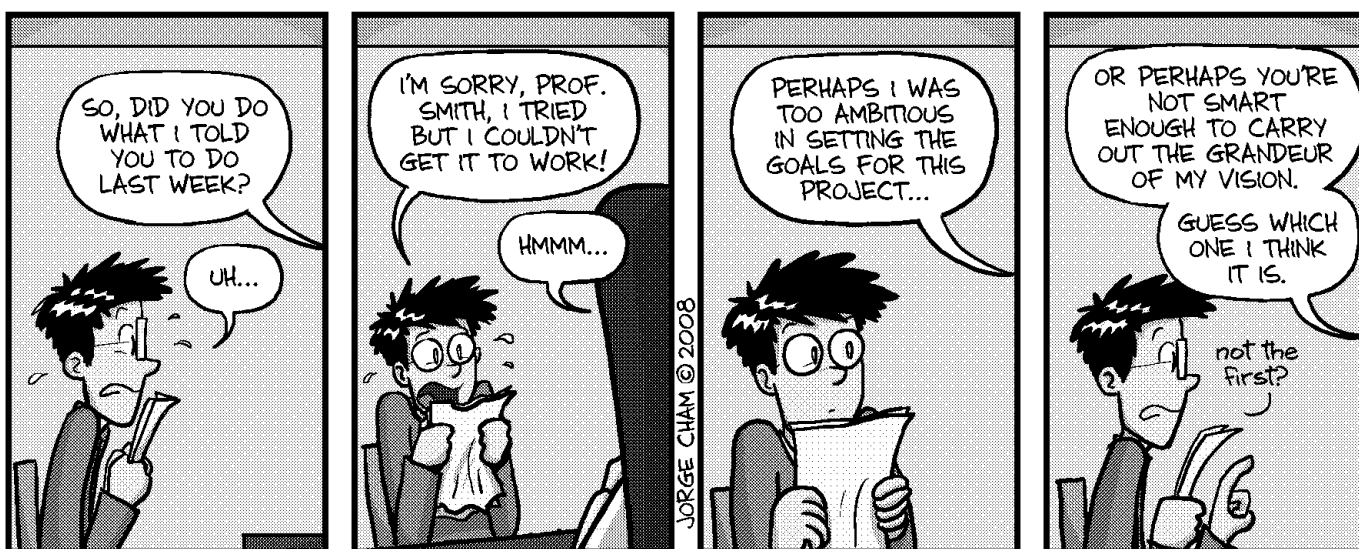
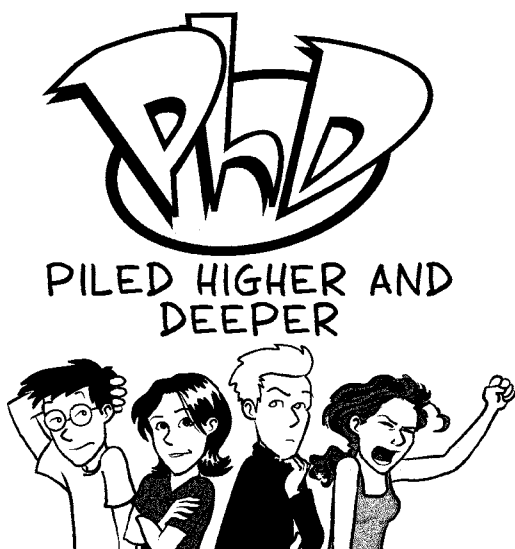
Swine flu kills by causing your body's immune system to overreact.

What can you do to keep your body from reacting to this threat?



MIT: protecting your health since 1861

STUDY YOUR ASS OFF



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 14.

			3					4
		1		6		5		2
	6					1	7	
				8		2		
5			4		9			7
		9		5				
	5	3					2	
8		2		1		4		
7					3			

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Royal Bengal

Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

313 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
(617) 491-1988

T: Red Line, Bus #1 – Central Square

Open Daily Except Monday
11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Lunch Buffet \$7.95

Reasonably Priced Dinners

10% Discount on \$15
(or more) order with MIT ID.

Free delivery for orders over \$10.
Take-out, platters, and catering available.
<http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com/>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- Except that
- Poking blows
- Before hostilities
- Kingston Trio hit
- Soap additive
- Break a promise
- Armed conflict
- Vitality
- Classic tunes
- Black Sabbath singer
- Utah ski resort
- Rips into
- "I Love Lucy" role
- Entrepreneurs' org.
- "Mama's Family" role
- Weeps uncontrollably
- Bobby or Ben
- Puzzle theme
- Music genre
- Zilch
- Greek Cupid
- Outer: pref.
- Author of "Soft Pretzels with Mustard"
- State police officer
- Bone dry
- Underground Railroad conductor
- More jittery
- Bruins of football
- Forensic sampling
- Groom-to-be
- King David's predecessor
- German article
- Grabbed, as embers
- Swiss artist
- LXXIII x VII

DOWN

- Autobahn auto
- Actress Hagen
- Four of cups, e.g.
- Utah team

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16						
17				18					19						
		20	21					22							
23	24							25							
26				27	28	29	30								
31				32							33	34	35	36	
37				38				39	40	41		42			
43			44				45					46			
			47	48	49	50					51				
52	53	54									55				
56								57	58	59	60				
61								62					63	64	65
66								67					68		
69								70					71		

- Et ___ (and others)
- Skeleton part
- Desert lily
- Investigator
- Pop in new film
- Motorcycle races
- Upper-stage rocket
- Return to default
- Ringo's oldest son
- RR stop
- Fiery crime
- Zodiac scales
- Yang's partner
- Future school?
- Feeling peaked
- Checked out
- Not restrained by limits
- Sparring dog?

- Germ cell
- Sphere
- Clause negator
- Compass dir.
- Worshipful
- For each one
- Swerved
- NYC subway line
- D.C. grp.
- Sneaky snatch
- Wireless
- Body part
- Walrus feature
- Sch. with a Berkeley campus
- Unhappy
- Masculine
- Veto
- Singer DiFranco

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Do you have a clear picture of your financial goals? Saving and investing to achieve those goals can be confusing when you are just starting out. Please join us for our new seminar, CHARTING A PATH TO YOUR FINANCIAL SUCCESS. This is an educational seminar, and there's no cost or obligation to attend. Furthermore, Ameriprise Financial will donate \$20 to ISF, an MIT-Harvard run nonprofit organization that provides high-quality education to underprivileged children in rural India. You can also sign up for free one-on-one financial consultations with the staff at Ameriprise after the seminar.



Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. offers financial advisory services, investments, insurance and annuity products. RiverSource® products are offered by affiliates of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC. CA License #0684538.

© 2007 – 2008 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. 12/08

Date: Wed, May 13th
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: 4-270
Free food and refreshments!

Ameriprise
Financial

Charting a Path to Your Financial Success

Jai M. Dev, Financial Advisor
Jai.M.Dev@ampf.com



Sponsored by the MIT India School Fund, an ASA-recognized group

ATO House Damage Caused Last Summer

ATO, from Page 1

rently living in on-campus housing, according to Brown. Several other brothers rented apartments because they felt “dorm life was not ideal for them,” Brown said. Brown said that those renting the apartments expect to move back into the house when the housing license is approved.

Though the fraternity no longer lives under one roof, the brothers worked to keep operations normal and hold fraternity-wide events. “It has been difficult at first, but we’ve continued to say that the house does not make the fraternity,” Brown said.

Having no house, he said, was not an excuse to lose the cohesiveness of the fraternity. No brother has defiliated from the fraternity because of the housing issues.

Whether or not ATO will be open for summer housing is unclear, Brown said. Though ATO has purchased new pieces of furniture for

the house, they might not be ready by the time summer residents would arrive.

During the fall semester and IAP, the brothers lived in MacGregor House suite lounges. This arrangement allowed the fraternity to stick together. ATO moved out in February, dispersing to other dorms.

ATO was re-accredited by the MIT Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) last Thursday, which examined factors including alumni support and overall health of the fraternity. This was informally required for ATO to be able to re-apply for the housing license, Brown said.

The Tech incorrectly reported Friday that ATO had lost their national fraternity charter. The reporting was based off of the January 20, 2009 minutes of the CLC. Ms. Elizabeth Lint, who commented in the minutes that ATO had lost their parent charter, said that she may have confused losing the charter with ATO not having AILG accreditation.



JESSICA LIN—THE TECH

Alejandro F. Arambula '12, Kevin A. Rustagi '11, and Thomas M. Cervantes '11 of the student band The Guitar Knives perform covers and original songs at their debut concert in the Simmons Hall Multipurpose Room on Saturday, May 9.

Public Health Experts Tracked Harvard Swine Flu to MIT

By Stephen Smith
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Anita Barry, a veteran disease investigator for the city of Boston, was at Logan International Airport, briefing officials about a worrisome new virus, when her cellphone jangled.

We need you back in the office, the caller said. Right now. Swine flu had landed in Boston.

Barry listened with growing apprehension. This new flu had taken root on Harvard University’s medical campus, in the shadow of some of the world’s most-famous hospitals. A dental student involved with treating patients was sick, and lab tests strongly suggested he was infected with the mysterious virus that headlines that morning warned had killed more than 150 people in Mexico.

And he wasn’t the only one feeling ill.

“I thought, ‘This could be a real problem,’” Barry recalled. “And of all the places for this to happen, to have it happen in the Longwood Medical Area, it was kind of the perfect storm.”

Over the next 10 hours on that Thursday a week ago, as afternoon melted into evening, investigators from the city and administrators from Harvard embarked on a race to stop the virus’s spread. Harvard is a temple of medical knowledge where ego and arrogance are not unknown, but by all accounts, the university’s top officials worked seamlessly with Boston’s experienced disease detectives.

The Boston team had spent years preparing for this moment, primed for action after the anthrax attacks of 2001, and, more recently, the fears of global epidemic fanned by avian flu. Barry, a physician, has devoted more than two decades of her life to tracking germs in Boston, from measles to AIDS to tuberculosis. In a crisis, she is renowned for her serenity, her words measured and unflappable and direct.

Now, after all the dress rehearsals, there was no time to waste as investigators dug for clues that would tell them where the virus had been - and where it was headed.

“This is going to test us”

It is a story of disease and disease hunters in the 21st century, when viruses migrate across the globe in days and decisions about what to do must be made in hours, often amid great uncertainty and grave consequences.

“I’m thinking, could we have gotten a more complicated first case in Boston? This is going to test us,” said Barbara Ferrer, Barry’s boss at the Boston Public Health Commission.

Swine flu, caused by the H1N1 virus, commanded the immediate attention of global health authorities

when reports filtered out of Mexico City last month that it was responsible for the deaths of dozens of adults and children. In short order, the virus made its US debut in California and Texas, raising alarm across the country.

On Monday evening, April 27, it arrived at a Harvard after-hours clinic just off Harvard Square. A student from the School of Dental Medicine walked in complaining of fever and cough. He was given a prescription for the antiviral medication Tamiflu and told to stay home and not attend classes. The next day, a specimen from the student was sent off for testing.

Early on the afternoon of April 30, the state laboratory in Jamaica Plain called the city with startling news - the dental student had tested positive for a probable case of swine flu.

A health department nurse immediately called the student. A classmate was also feeling sick, the student told the nurse. That woman’s boyfriend, a student at MIT, had returned from a trip to Mexico with flu-like symptoms.

And both of the dental school students had gone to a party the previous Friday night at Vanderbilt Hall, a dormitory across Longwood Avenue from the quadrangle that is the architectural signature of Harvard’s medical campus. The other guests included third-year students from both the dental and medical schools.

Fertile ground for virus

Dental students at Harvard spend their first two years in classes with their medical school counterparts, and some share the same dorm. Each class of about 35 dental students is divided into what the school calls societies. There are four: Peabody, Holmes, Castle, and Cannon.

“You’re in it from day one,” said Dr. Elsbeth Kalenderian, an assistant dean for clinical affairs at the dental school. “You become really tight that way with your society classmates. It’s almost like a little frat thing.”

A flu virus, transmitted by a handshake or an uncovered cough or sneeze, could find fertile ground among students so tightly knit.

So, in offices in Boston and Cambridge, across telephone lines left open for hours on end, representatives of the city and university began making a series of quick-draw decisions. Even as Barry drove back from Logan, Julia Gunn, who helped direct the investigation, dispatched a rapid response team of nurses and epidemiologists to the dental school.

Ferrer, sitting in her sixth-floor corner office in the health commission’s headquarters, spoke with Harvard officials, including Anne Berg, the dental school’s director of admis-

sions and student affairs.

It was roughly 3:30 p.m., less than two hours after the ominous test results were reported by the state lab. Inside the treatment bays where patients are seen at the dental school, the whir and hiss of machinery continued. Ferrer wanted to immediately empty all 69 dental chairs at the school. Berg asked whether it would be possible to finish that day’s appointments.

“Actually, no. I need you to close the clinic today, now,” Ferrer replied, and Berg readily agreed.

As the treatment bays emptied, students, faculty, and staff were instructed to assemble in an auditorium. The city health department was on the way, they were told, because at least two of their classmates were suspected of carrying swine flu. All 80 red upholstered seats were filled, and about 50 more people stood along the walls.

“They were a little bit wondering why they were there, and a little bit confused, and a little bit like, ‘Let’s get going,’” Kalenderian said.

Standing at the front of the room, Barry was determined to diffuse the tension.

“Well, Harvard is once again number one and this time it’s in having a case of the swine flu in the city of Boston. Congratulations,” Barry recalled saying, evoking laughter.

The city disease trackers had drafted a questionnaire for the dental students and faculty to complete, asking about their health and their activities, including whom they’d had contact with. Each person was summoned into one of two classrooms and greeted by mask-wearing health workers.

In all, 117 people were interviewed during the next two to three hours. Five more students reported symptoms consistent with the flu and were sent to the Longwood branch of the student health service.

Meanwhile, Harvard administrators - including university provost Steven E. Hyman, president Drew Gilpin Faust’s second-in-command - moved toward an inescapable conclusion: It would not be enough to close the dental clinic and cancel classes at the dental school. Given the extensive interaction among students on the Longwood medical campus, the decision was made to also suspend classes at the schools of medicine and public health.

And medical students - including third-years who were scheduled to begin clinical rotations that Friday - were ordered to stay out of hospitals and clinics.

“They were aggressive decisions,” said Dr. David Rosenthal, director of Harvard University Health Services. “We didn’t know the infectivity of the virus, we didn’t know the severity, we didn’t know how contagious this was.”

The consequences of the emerging cluster of cases rippled outward.

In one instance, a Harvard dental faculty member was scheduled to perform surgery at Beth Israel Dea-

coness Medical Center, and Barry told the woman she needed to find someone to replace her.

As darkness fell, Gunn took the questionnaires back to the dingy warren of offices where the communicable disease specialists work at the health commission. She worked deep into the night, hoping to learn how many people were sick or had been ill in previous days, and how far the web of illness extended.

“It’s like a really good book, and you’ve got all these characters,” Gunn said. “And it all came together and just told you the story.”

That narrative pointed her, mainly, toward two of the third-year societies. “Within these groups, there was more illness than in any other groupings that I had seen throughout all 117 people,” she said.

That told investigators that the virus appeared to be relatively contained, and it also helped the dental school the next morning to quickly compile a list of patients who had contact with potentially infectious students.

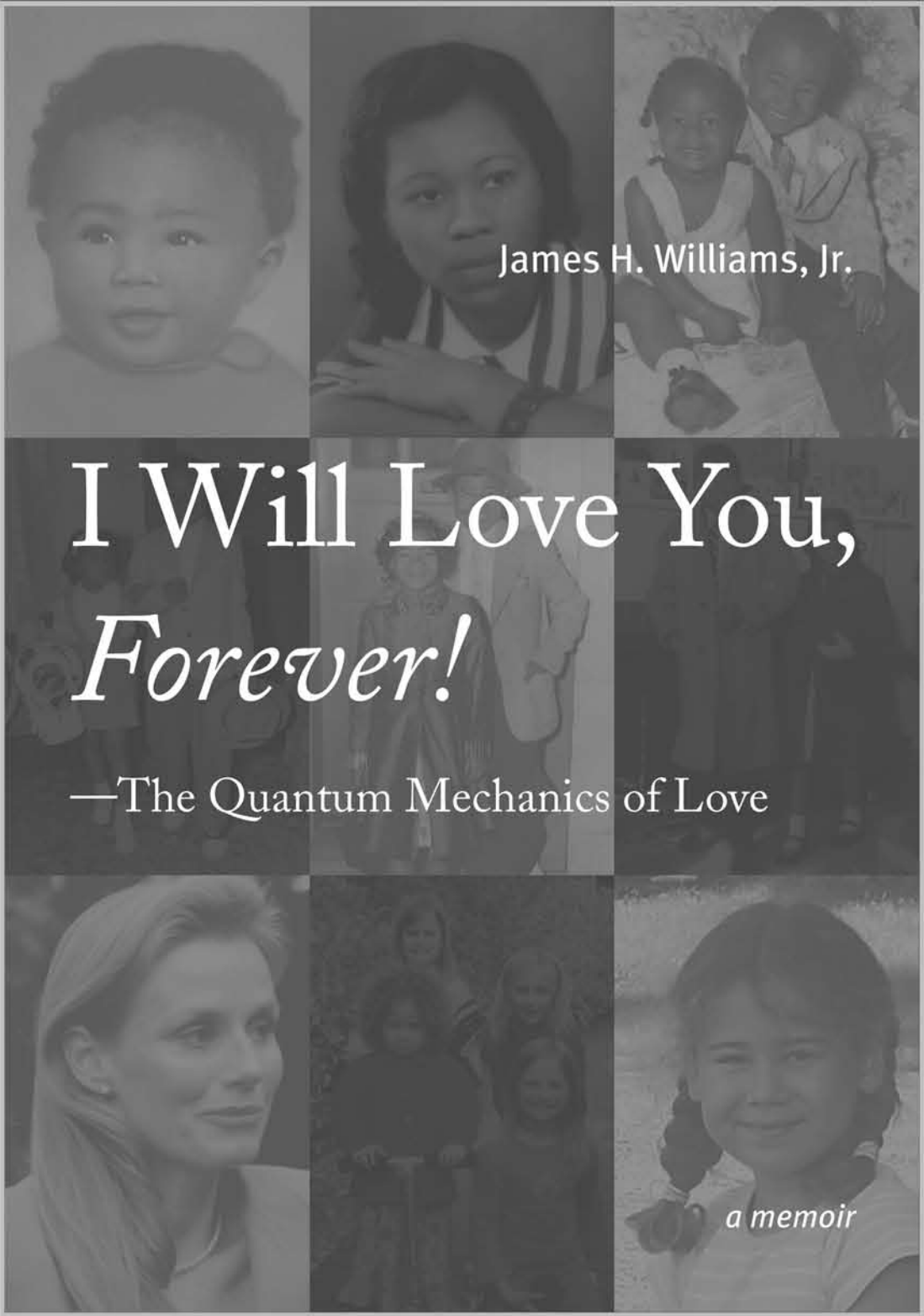
About 40 letters were sent to patients urging them to seek medical attention if they experienced flu symptoms - more urgent measures were not deemed necessary because there was only a slight concern that patients had been exposed.

Neither the city nor the university has received any report of an infected patient. In under 24 hours, the count of suspected swine flu cases at the dental school had grown to nine.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Meena L. Viswanath '11 rides a water-pumping seesaw next to the MIT Chapel on Monday, May 11. The seesaw was a final project for 1.102 (Introduction to Civil and Environmental Engineering Design II) that Viswanath’s group built.



In this memoir for the ages, **James H. Williams, Jr.** poses the breathtaking question “What happens to the love between two people when they die?” To answer his question, he explores four very different loving relationships with four very different females and plumbs the depths of modern cosmology and physics. Via *lovions* —quantum packets of love— Professor Williams concludes that mutually intense love *can* indeed be eternal.

“...a beautifully written memoir...”

“...powerful and creative...”

“...A brilliantly thought-provoking masterwork.”

Ingram Book Group (Amazon, Baker & Taylor, Barnes & Noble, and Others)



MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

Master Winchell Woo and Nathan Li from the Shaolin Hung Gar Martial Arts Academy demonstrate using “Qi,” the body’s flow of internal energy, to defend against a spear attack during the “Channeling Qi” event hosted by the MIT Traditional Medicine Society in Lobdell last Friday, May 8.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

An “Ideas To Be Processed” box styled in a fashion similar to the “Domestic and International Mail To Be Processed” box next to it is seen at the intersection of MIT’s Building 3 and the Infinite Corridor on Monday, May 11. The “MIT Visual Arts Program” designation (in the same place as the “MIT Facilities” label on normal mailboxes) suggests the box is an art project.

DUSP Students Confront Profs. To Ask for More Student Input

DUSP, from Page 1

other faculty members in two meetings during late April, no formal process for collecting student input had been established.

Students were also concerned that the first time Glasmeier “formally approached” the DUSP students was in late-April meetings, three months after Glasmeier came to MIT to fill the role of department chair.

Glasmeier, however, said she felt that her door had always been wide open to students, even though she had not come to them to arrange a time to talk: “Students can always come speak to me, and I’ve met with people all day every day since I’ve been here.”

Some students did not feel represented by those who walked in on the DUSP 2015 meeting. Jawaid and her group are “a marginal fraction of the student body,” said Joshua Sklarsky

G, another DUSP graduate student and a member of the DUSP Student Council.

“The DUSP Student Council appreciates and applauds all that the DUSP administration and Amy Glasmeier have done in taking the initiative to solicit student input,” Sklarsky said. “We respect the right of the faculty to have their own meeting space.”

Much of the disparity between and within faculty and students seems to stem from a lack of clarity about what exactly the DUSP 2015 committee was meant to accomplish.

Glasmeier originally wanted DUSP 2015 to map out far-reaching changes to the Urban Planning department. Glasmeier said the committee had been established to allow the faculty to “have an initial conversation with themselves” and “begin a conversation that will include many

layers of investigation and consultation” and last six to eight months.

Layzer said that such a task couldn’t be accomplished in a year, so instead she planned on having a brainstorming conversation with the faculty, but didn’t tell the students. “[Layzer and I] knew we couldn’t take on the whole set of planning issues at once and that we had to do it in pieces,” Glasmeier said.

According to Jawaid, professors never formally explained the purpose of DUSP 2015, and students only heard about the committee’s existence through faculty members.

Layzer put herself at fault for the miscommunication between the DUSP 2015 committee and the students. The students still thought that the Urban Planning department was making huge changes behind their backs. Layzer said that wasn’t true.

“It was always our intent to get input from everybody,” she said.

Student Robots Crush Cans, Push and Stack Bales in 2.007 Event

2.007, from Page 1

battle arena, which would multiply their score.

In a new twist this year, the robots were on their own for the first ten seconds of every round, relying only on their sensors and their programming. This was also the first year that teams used compressed air to crush the soda cans.

The robots designed to crush cans were eliminated early because they could not crush enough cans to score well. Most students, like Grinnell, made robots to push bales into a designated area. Only one robot was designed to bring pre-crushed cans back home.

A few robots were able to stack bales, which was worth more

points. Several machines attempted to prevent opponents from scoring, which made matches more dramatic. Frey’s narration during the runs added to the fun. He brought his children to the match and introduced them to the crowd. Frey remained focused on his mission of educating the children in the audience throughout the event, and he periodically checked if they had questions.

On the sidelines, audience members were able to drive an expressive robot built by Amy Qian ’11. The Electric Vehicle Team and the Formula SAE Team, both involved with 2.007 this year, were on the sidelines to present their work to audience members.

We’ll ship your stuff home. (Even if home is halfway around the world.)

The UPS Store™

Let our packaging experts handle your international shipping needs.

- A range of international services—from standard to next-day
- Proper handling of paperwork—to help your package clear customs faster
- Online tracking available
- Plus all the resources and expertise of UPS®

We’re located near campus. Stop in and ask for details.

*****CLOSEST FULL SERVICE SHIPPING STORE TO CAMPUS*****

EXTENDED HOURS BEGINNING MAY 18TH

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 7:30pm

Saturday 9am - 6pm

Sunday May 17th & May 31st: 12pm - 4pm

May 24th: 10am - 5pm

The UPS Store

955 Massachusetts Avenue (Near Crate and Barrel)

617- 868 - 5055

www.theupsstorelocal.com/0681

FREE PICK UP SERVICE AND FREE BOXES WITH STORAGE

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call: James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

Eating Disorder Treatment

Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa

Informed clinicians refer their clients to Laurel Hill Inn. LHI provides the most effective treatment and deploys the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We provide extensive programming in a highly structured and supervised non-institutional therapeutic setting. Evening, day, and residential treatment as well as weekly support groups in West Medford and West Somerville. Call Linda at 781 396-1116 or visit www.laurelhillinn.com.

got sperm?

SPERM DONORS NEEDED Up to \$1100 a month!

Healthy MEN in college or with a college degree wanted for our sperm donor program.

Minimal time commitment

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family.

Receive free health and genetic screenings.

APPLY ONLINE:

www.SPERMBANK.com

We like people. Do you? join@tech.mit.edu

Going on Sabbatical?

Responsible Harvard Grad Student would love to house-sit for you! Email Aron at arw937@mail.harvard.edu or call 617-510-5912 if interested

Solution to Crossword from page 8

B	U	T	J	A	B	S	P	R	E	W	A	R		
M	T	A	A	L	O	E	R	E	N	E	G	E		
W	A	R	Z	I	N	G	O	L	D	I	E	S		
			O	Z	I	E	O	S	B	O	U	R	N	E
A	L	T	A				T	E	A	R	S	A	T	
R	I	C	K	Y	R	I	C	A	R	D	O			
S	B	A	I	O	L	A			S	O	B	S		
O	R		N	E	L	S	O	N	S	P	O	P		
N	A	D	A		E	R	O	S	E	X	O			
			D	A	V	I	D	B	R	E	N	N	E	
T	R	O	O	P	E	R			S	E	R	E		
H	A	R	R	I	E	T	T	U	B	M	A	N		
E	D	G	I	E	R		U	C	L	A	D	N	A	
F	I	A	N	C	E		S	A	U	L	E	I	N	
T	O	N	G	E	D		K	L	E	E	D	X	I	

MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players Perform ‘Iolanthe’



The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players performed “Iolanthe, or The Peer and the Peri,” a comic opera, over the past two weeks. These photos were taken at the Saturday, May 9 performance.

(top left) Fairies, played by members of the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, open the scene with the song “Tripping Hither, Tripping Thither.”

(bottom left) Phyllis, played by Kaila Deiorio-Haggar '11, and Strephon, played by Mark Costello, perform during “Good Morrow, Good Lover.”

(right) The ensemble looks upon the law of the Fairies. From left to right are the Fairy Queen, played by Amanda Keil; the Lord Chancellor, played by Andrew Bobson Sweet; and Iolanthe, played by Roselin Osser SM '07.

Photography by Sherry Yan

COMPUTERS

—

HI TECH

—

HAM RADIO

GIANT

www.

SWAPFEST

.us

NOW

the

THIRD SUNDAY

of

EACH MONTH

ALL SUMMER

BARGAIN ELECTRONICS

—

COMPUTERS

—

RADIO PARTS

SOFTWARE

—

HARDWARE

Sunday, May 17th

- Buy Sell Swap - 9 AM to 2 PM

Albany and Main Streets, Cambridge

TAILGATE ROOM FOR OVER 200 SELLERS

Rain or Shine — Garage Available

BUYERS \$ 5

\$1 off with MIT ID

SELLERS \$ 20

per space includes 1 admission

A map showing the location of SwapFest at the intersection of Albany and Main Streets in Cambridge. The map includes labels for Central Sq., Main St., Tech Sq., Kendall Sq., MIT, Memorial Drive, Charles River, Vassar St., and Broadway. An arrow points to the SwapFest location near the intersection of Albany and Main Streets.

FREE!

Buyers Parking

VENDORS

from all of

New England

Come early for BEST BARGAINS

Sponsored by: W1MX, the MIT Electronics Research Society, W1XM/R

SAAS

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS


CONGRATULATIONS,
FAREWELL,
&
GOOD LUCK

TO THE SENIORS OF SAAS!
WE'LL MISS YOU!

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO
OUR SENIORS ON BOARD:

KAPIL DILWALI
ALIYA POPATIA
ARJUN NASKAR
VARUN CHIRRAVURI

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
WE WILL MISS YOU DEARLY!



LOVE,
SAAS BOARD '08-'09

MIT Astronaut Returns to Space to Make Final Hubble Telescope Fixes

By Dennis Overbye
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLA.

Seven astronauts blasted off Monday for one last dance with the Hubble Space Telescope.

The space shuttle Atlantis, commanded by Scott D. Altman, a retired Navy captain, bolted through the sky on a pillar of smoke and fire just after 2 p.m. The Atlantis is carrying 22,000 pounds of custom-designed tools, replacement parts and new instruments to slice and dice starlight and excite scientists and stargazers everywhere.

The shuttle is rushing toward a Wednesday rendezvous with the telescope, which happened to be floating about 350 miles directly above Cape Canaveral at launching time.

If all goes well in five spacewalks starting Thursday morning, the crew members will revamp and refresh the telescope, which has dazzled the public and the science community with its cosmic postcards. Then they will say goodbye forever on behalf of humanity. Sometime in the middle of the next decade, the Hubble will run out of juice, and it will eventually be crashed into the ocean.

Besides Altman, the crew includes Gregory C. Johnson, also a retired Navy captain, as pilot; and

Andrew J. Feustel, Col. Michael T. Good of the Air Force, John M. Grunsfeld, Michael J. Massimino PhD '92 and K. Megan McArthur as mission specialists.

The Atlantis astronauts will spend Tuesday examining the shuttle with cameras, looking for any dings or nicks or holes caused by flying debris during the launching. The shuttle Columbia was doomed in 2003 because a hunk of insulating foam broke off the external fuel tank and damaged the tiles that protected the spacecraft from the searing heat of re-entering the atmosphere.

"The sad thing is if we get to orbit and see something bad and get waved off and don't get to fix Hubble," Grunsfeld said. "That would be the saddest."

After a preliminary review of video after the launching, NASA engineers said there appeared to be little to be concerned about.

Changes to the design of the fuel tank have made it less likely to sustain major damage during launching. The bigger risk this time around comes from micrometeoroids and space junk, which are more prevalent in Hubble's orbit than at the space station's lower one. There is about a 1 in 229 chance of a catastrophic collision, so the astronauts will take another close look at their craft at the end of the mission.

The astronauts carry a tool kit for fixing small holes or cracks in the fragile tiles. If there is something they cannot fix, they will hunker down and await the shuttle Endeavour, which is sitting on another launching pad, ready to blast off with a four-man crew and retrieve the Atlantis astronauts from danger.

As the plume left by the shuttle dissipated on Monday, engineers and astronomers who had been working on the telescope, some of them their entire careers, shared high fives and hugs and tears as they celebrated the

commencement of a mission that had been left for dead five years ago, when it was thought to be too risky.

"I'm glad I had sunglasses on," said David Leckrone, the Hubble project scientist, from Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Ed Weiler, head of space science for NASA, who has worked on Hubble since the 1970s, called this launching "bittersweet," since it was the last destined for the telescope. But if all goes well, he said, "I am confident that we will have five, six, eight more years of Hubble."

The repair mission comes as NASA is once again at a crossroads. The agency lacks a permanent administrator; Christopher Scolese has been acting administrator since Michael D. Griffin stepped down in January, and the White House is said to have been having trouble finding a candidate.

The agency has begun laying off workers as part of the decision to retire the shuttles next year. And last week, President Barack Obama ordered a review of the agency's plan to return humans to the moon and of the Constellation spacecraft that are to succeed the shuttle.

So the flight Monday was not just the beginning of the last act for the Hubble but also the beginning of the end for the space shuttle, whose greatest legacy might very well be the role it played in the repair and maintenance of the Hubble. Altman recently called it "an incredible example of how humans and machines can work together."

Grunsfeld, who has earned the sobriquet "Hubble repairman" for his previous exploits in space with the telescope, said: "The only reason Hubble works is because we have a space shuttle. And of all things we do, I think Hubble is probably the best thing we use it for."

As Mario Livio, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute, put it, "It's not just a telescope, it's the people's telescope."

Word.



Established 1981

join@tt.mit.edu
W20-483, 617-253-1541

HAYDEN LIBRARY



open 24 hours

May 14 - May 22

The Humanities and Science libraries (Hayden Library) will be open 24 hours-a-day during finals week, beginning Thursday, May 14 at 8 a.m. through Friday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

For a complete list of libraries and their hours see:
libraries.mit.edu/about/hours

Congratulations graduating seniors! Have a great summer.



Solution to Last Issue's Crossword

(the wrong solution was placed due to a production error)

E	C	R	U		A	T	R	A		G	A	M	U	T
R	O	O	T		E	R	O	S		A	W	A	R	E
A	L	D	O		R	E	N	T		M	A	G	N	A
S	O	A	P	B	O	X	D	E	R	B	Y			
E	R	N	I	E	S		O	R	A	L		A	D	S
					A	L	O	E		R	E	A	G	A
A	C	T			A	L	L	S	T	A	R	G	A	M
R	A	R	E		A	A	A			A	P	E	R	
S	P	E	L	L	I	N	G	B	E	E		E	S	T
O	R	A	L	E	S		S	M	E	E				
N	A	T		F	E	M	A		P	O	T	T	E	R
			S	T	E	E	P	L	E	C	H	A	S	E
R	A	D	I		T	H	A	R		I	R	A	S	
U	N	I	T	E		R	I	C	O		C	O	L	E
R	A	K	E	S		O	D	E	R		S	T	E	T

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

PUBLIC EDUCATION AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL



Making plans for next year?

inspire.
imagine.
create.
teach.

Still time to apply for June 2009 if you act fast!

Learn more, arrange a personal phone appointment or visit:

781.736.2022

mat@brandeis.edu

www.brandeis.edu/programs/education/mat/elementary

Teaching makes a difference, and education remains one of the strongest sectors of the economy.

- The social need is great.
- The intrinsic rewards are immeasurable.
- The material rewards and job security look pretty good in today's economy.
- The MAT provides you with sustained, rigorous support, and a vibrant intellectual community.
- A year-long teaching internship builds experience and judgment.
- Generous scholarships for strong candidates.

Movements In Time

Annual Dance Performance



When: **Saturday, May 16th at 7:00 pm**

Where: Little Theatre, Kresge Auditorium (W1 6)

Original ballet/modern/African choreography by **Robin Offley**
to music by Sade, David Foster, Steve Reich, Stevie Wonder

Tickets: \$5 at the show

Sponsored by UA Finboard



SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

None

SCOREBOARD

Men's Tennis	
Saturday, May 9, 2009	
MIT	3
Skidmore College	5

Men's Track	
Saturday, May 9, 2009	
NEICAAA Championship	
MIT	T-9th of 36

Women's Track	
Saturday, May 9, 2009	
NEICAAA Championship	
MIT	19th of 36

Source: <http://www.mitathletics.com>



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI

Mona Santoso (left) and Chandra Kowi from California play in the final of mixed doubles, an event they won with scores of 21-19 and 21-17, at the Wilson MIT Boston Open badminton tournament in Rockwell Cage on May 10. The Boston Open is one of the largest badminton tournaments in the nation.

MIT Official Sports GEAR
including hats, t-shirts and more items
with the name of your favorite team!



To purchase items go
ON-LINE: www.mitathletics.com then
click on "Athletics Merchandise"
ON CAMPUS: DAPER Main Desk, W35 lobby

Your purchase supports MIT sports programming.
-Thank you!

50 % OFF UPSTAIRS
MCINTYRE and MOORE
BOOKSELLERS

20 % OFF DOWNSTAIRS

1971 Mass. Ave.
Porter Square

just in: 500+ titles advanced math, some
computer, mostly Springer and Birkhauser

www.mcintyreandmoore.com

Good luck on Finals!

THANK YOU M.I.T.



Bose® Wave® music system



QuietComfort® 2 Acoustic Noise Cancelling® Headphones



Companion® 3 multimedia speaker system

Please direct all inquiries to the
"M.I.T. Purchase Program."

Bose Corporation
1-800-444-BOSE

Thank you to Students,
Faculty, Staff and
Employees of M.I.T.

Bose Corporation was founded and built by M.I.T. people. Our success in research and in business is a result, in no small part, of what M.I.T. has done for us. As one measure of our appreciation, we are extending special purchase privileges to all students and employees of M.I.T. for their personal use.

BOSE
Better sound through research®